INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of two (2) members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

CWGC Canadian Agency
66 Slater Street
Suite 1707
Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: **Dominique Boulais**

Report Date: 31 January 2017

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	Х	Burial Location Identified	Х
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	Χ
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Buried Near this Spot	Х	Two Identifications	Х

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Cline, James Lesley (1)		Sains-les-Marquion British	<u>link</u>
Neil, William Ernest (2)		Cemetery	
2 nd Bn. CMGC	i	Pas de Calais, France	i
240455; 654643	i	Plot 2 Row D Grave 11 & 12	i
Death: 27 September 1918		Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Attestation Papers	<u>1</u> , <u>2</u>	Cemetery Schematic	<u>link</u>
Service Record	<u>1</u> , 2	Circumstance of Death	5
Graves Registration Report	1	CEF Canada Register	
Concentration of Grave		Headstone Register	6
War Diary Extract(s)	2	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)		Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	3	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	4	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List		Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	7

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 2 Row D Graves 11 and 12 records the remains of two (2) members of the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps (2/Can. M.G.C.) buried therein. Our findings are conclusive that the men are Privates James Cline and William Neil, the only two members of the unit missing from that location, in the two month period of September-October 1918. As the graves were not previously identified, their names are currently recorded on the Vimy Memorial.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 2 Row D Graves 11 and 12 are the two (2) members of the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps (2/Can. M.G.C.), that were missing from this location, in September-October 1918.

The findings are based on the following:

- 1. The Graves Registration Report Form (GRRF) indicates that Graves 11 and 12 of Plot 2 Row C of the Sans-les-Marquion British Cemetery hold the remains of two Privates of the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Machine Guns Corps (Attachment #1). These men are buried with Sergeant G. Christian #408415 of the 2nd Bn. CMGC, also killed in action at this location, on 27 September 1918. There is no on-line version of the Concentration Report for the recovery of these remains.
- 2. The *War Diary Extracts* from Library & Archives Canada confirm that the 2nd Battalion CMGC was in the area where the remains were recovered on 27 September 1918. One of the Ammunition dumps was at **51b.W.19.b.0.0** (Attachment #2). The deaths of Sergeant Christian and Privates Cline and Neil are reported killed on the same date, at that location.
- 3. The McMaster Trench Map Extract shows the location where the unit was and the remains were recovered, relative to the cemetery at Sains-les Marquion (Attachment #3). The CWGC report for the cemetery states the following:

The village of Sains-les-Marquion was captured by the 1st Canadian Division on 27 September 1918, and the cemetery was begun on the following day by the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade. It was used until the middle of October and was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from Marquion Churchyard.

- 4. Consulting the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (CWGC) database tells us that for the period from September 1, 1918 to October 30, 1918 there are only three (3) members of the 2nd Battalion CMGC named on the Vimy Memorial (Attachment #4). Two (2) of the men are the Privates named in this report, lost in battle at the Canal du Nord near Sains-les-Marquion. The third is Private Felix Napolean Le Bouffe who was lost 12 days later, a considerable distance to the east near Sancourt, north of Cambrai.
- 5. The *Circumstance of Death* (COD) file for each of the Privates tells us that they were lost in battle on 27 September 1918 near Inchy-en-Artois. The precise location is provided for Private Neil as **51b.W.20.c.40.75**. (Attachment #5). A review of the file for Sergeant Christian #408415 in Grave 2.D.10, tells us that his remains were recovered at the exact same location. Private Le Boeuf's remains were left at **51a.S.14.c.3.7**, a location of the adjoining map, some distance away.
- 6. The CWGC Headstone Schedule shows that the two Privates of the 2nd Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps have not been identified prior to our research (Attachment #6). Both are listed as "UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER".

As we have not had the opportunity to view the headstones at the cemetery, we do not know if they were identified as being members of the 2nd Battalion CMGC. That is not noted on the headstone schedule. It does not appear that the battalion designation is reported for Sergeant Christian (the schedule also states the British format of Serjeant, not Sergeant).

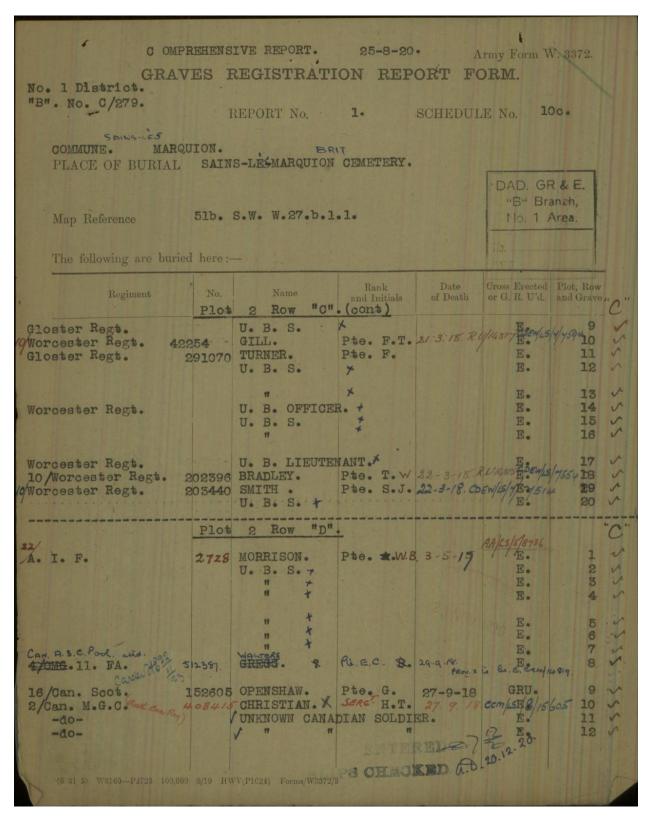
We do not know which of the two Privates is in which grave, thus this would be a case where we understand that the CWGC would use a *Special Memorial "C"*, indicating that they were "*Buried Near this Spot*", listed alphabetically with Private Cline in 2.D.11 and Private Neil in 2.D.12.

Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #7).

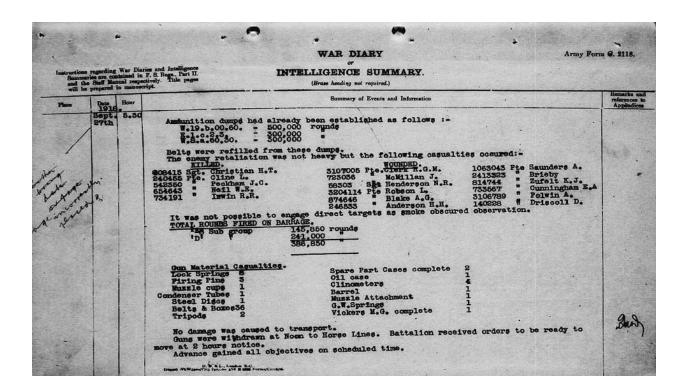
There is no doubt that the two men of the 2nd Battalion Canadian Machine Guns Corps in these two graves are Privates Cline and Neil, however we do not know which one is in which grave. We thus suggest the use of the *Special Memorial "C"* in this instance.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Graves Registration Report Form.* http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2047456.JPG

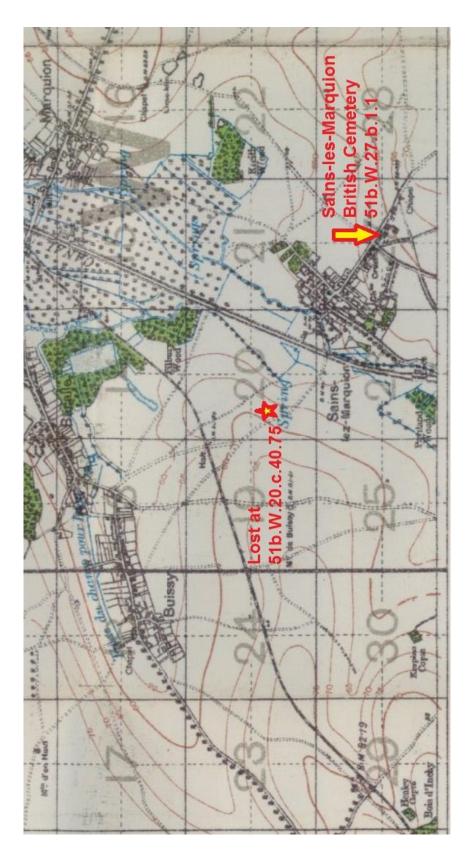


Library and Archives Canada: War Diaries of the First World War. Available as (1) <u>ArchivaNet: On-Line Research Tool</u>, or (2) <u>War Diaries of the First World War</u>.

			WAR DIARY Army Form	G. SELS.	
Instructions regarding War Baries and Intelligences (Reg. Part II. Both Baff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript. (Brase heading not required.)					
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	references Appendice	
33.4.8.	5-Sept	ember	24th. Continued.		
	Septe		ROLAND'S POST at E.7.d.7.3., firing 33,000 rounds. Scouting party of Infantry patrolled wood E.S.a.6.0. an which No.3 Gun of 'E' Battery had been firing in the operation of 23rd, and found at least 50 Germans dead, all killed by bullets. Barrage practices were carried out in accordance with instructions from Canadian Corps by Batteries who are to be engaged in overhead fire in support of the operation.	Sus	
			Harassing Fire carried out as under :- 2,500		
			W.10.c.14.99. 2,500		
			Wils.a.70.40. 2,500		
			31 0 45 20 3.000		
			R.2.b.9.0. 3,000		
	9.34		3.000		
			E.2.c.90.90.		
	2126		B.9.0.10.90. 5,000 5,000		
A STORY	100		6.000		
		1	R.2.b.30.35. 6,000		
	3/03	100	E.8.c.40.80 E.14.b.85.40. 33,000 E.2.d.9.6. 4,500		
		652	E.2.09.8. 4.500		
	15255		Total 92,500 Rounds fired.		
	50 2760	575/950/03			



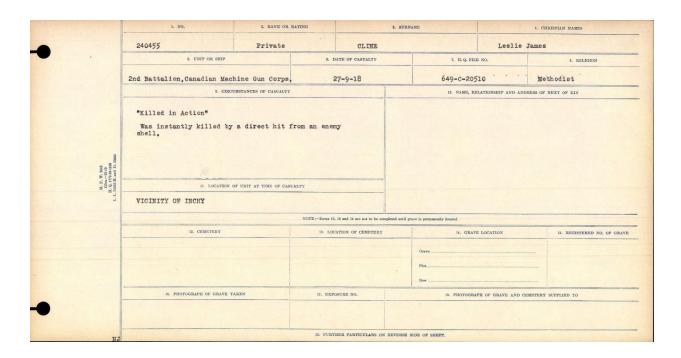
McMaster Lloyd Reed Collection, Trench Maps, Arras 51b http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A4067/-/collection



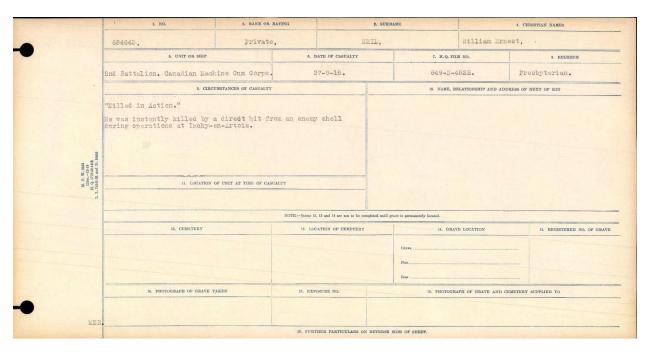
Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Finding War Dead http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx?cpage=1

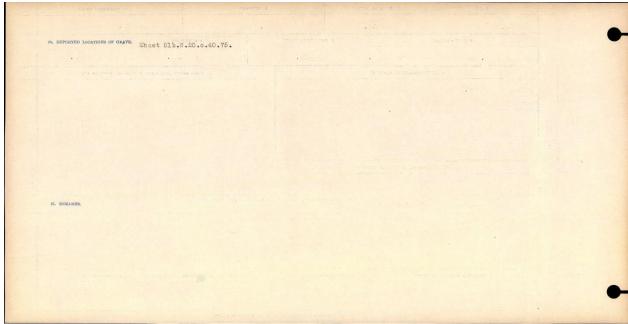


ATTACHMENT #5 - Cline

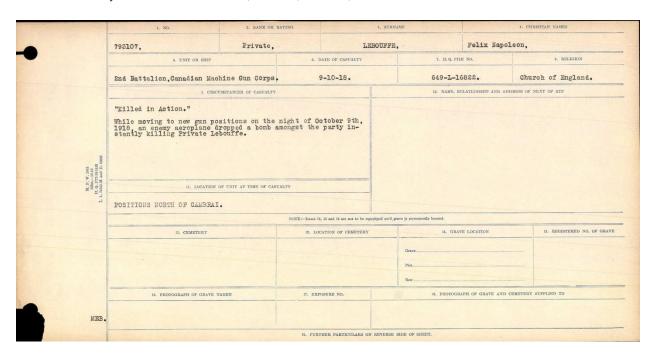


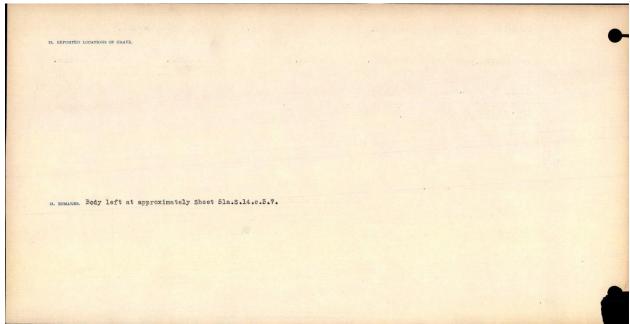
ATTACHMENT #5 - Neil



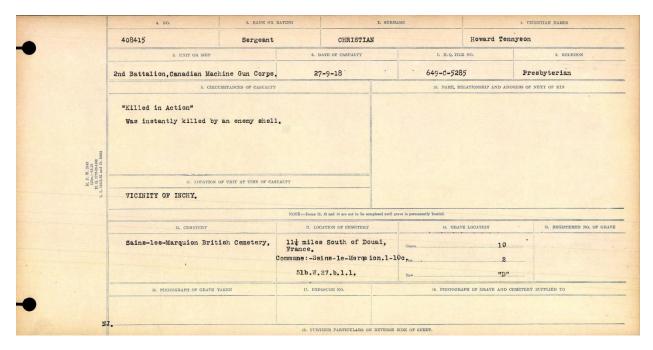


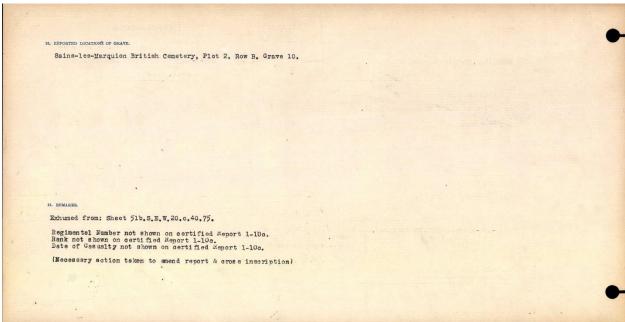
ATTACHMENT #5 – Le Boeuf



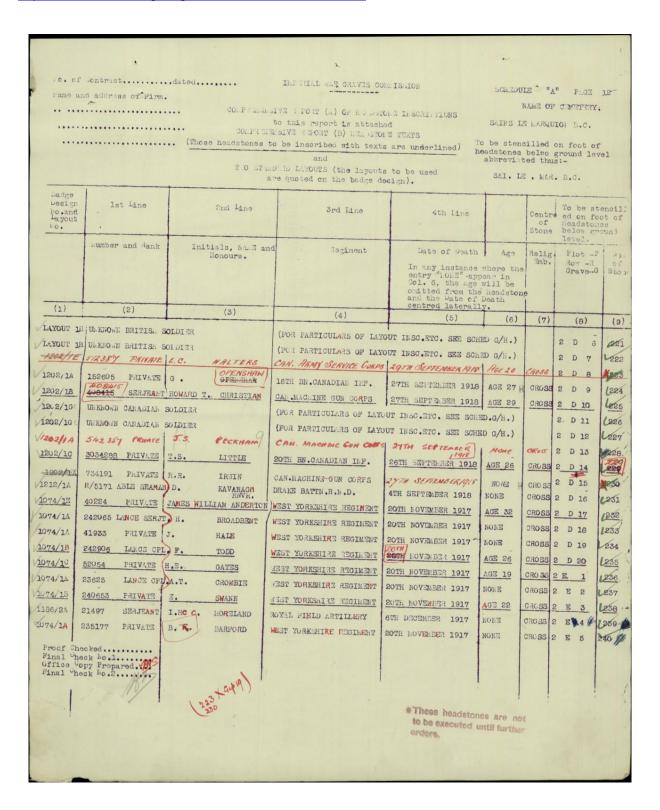


ATTACHMENT #5 - Christian





Commonwealth War Graves Commission, *Comprehensive Report of Headstone Inscriptions*. http://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2714727.JPG



This "Reporting and Review" attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:

All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.

Guideline Criteria for Submission:

Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Investigator Report Author
Timothy McTague	Private Researcher Rhode Island USA	timmct@verizon.net	Report Reviewer